

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said method comprising:

creating at the designer location a print job to be printed at the print service provider location;

establishing a closed-loop communication link between the designer location and the print service provider location;

the designer location obtaining updated device configuration information from the print service provider location via said closed-loop communication link;

creating a job ticket at the designer location that specifies production devices of the print service provider to be used to process said print job and processing instructions for the print service provider location;

automatically pre-flighting a digital file associated with the print job at the designer location, including automatically checking for common errors associated during a prepress stage, automatically revising incorrect printing instructions and automatically adding missing printing instructions to the received document file;

automatically providing at the designer location a remote proofing function for a customer of the document file to be printed and automatically tracking the printing of the document file by continuously monitoring and updating a status of the document file to be printed;

creating a press ready file at the designer location that encompasses the automatically pre-flighted and automatically proofed document file and both said print job and said job ticket;

submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via said closed-loop communication link;

processing said print job at the print service provider location; and

transmitting over said closed-loop communication link continuously updated status information to the designer location so as to keep the designer location apprised of a production status of said print job at the print service provider location,

said status information including an indication of tasks that have already been performed in relation to the print job and a current task being performed in relation to the print job.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment according to claim 1, said production status being updated at a plurality of stages of the workflow.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment according to claim 1, further comprising automatically updating said job ticket of said press ready file upon completion of each task in the workflow via said closed-loop communication link.

8. (Previously presented) A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment according to claim 7, further comprising performing automated job closing based upon information in said updated job ticket upon completion of production of said print job.

9. (Previously presented) A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment according to claim 1, further comprising allowing a user at the designer location to, via the closed-loop communication link, select the print service provider location from among a plurality of print service provider locations and corresponding information on production capabilities.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium that stores a program product for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said product comprising machine-readable program code for causing, when executed, a machine to perform the following method steps:

creating at the designer location a print job to be printed by the print service provider location;

establishing a closed-loop communication link between the designer location and the print service provider location;

the designer location obtaining updated device configuration information from the print service provider location via said closed-loop communication link;

creating a job ticket at the designer location that specifies production devices of the print service provider to be used to process said print job and processing instructions for the print service provider location;

automatically pre-flighting the digital file at the designer location, including automatically checking for common errors associated during a prepress stage, automatically revising incorrect printing instructions and automatically adding missing printing instructions to the received document file;

automatically providing at the designer location a remote proofing function for a customer of the document file to be printed and automatically tracking the printing of the document file by continuously monitoring and updating a status of the document file to be printed;

creating a press ready file at the designer location that encompasses the automatically pre-flighted and automatically proofed document file and both said print job and said job ticket;

submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via said closed-loop communication link;

processing said print job at the print service provider location; and

transmitting over said closed-loop communication link continuously updated status information from the print service provider location to the designer location so as to keep the designer location apprised of a production status of the processing being performed at the print service provider location, said status information including an indication of tasks that have already been performed in relation to the print job and a current task being performed in relation to the print job.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 11, said production status being updated at a plurality of stages of the workflow.

15-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 11, further comprising automatically updating said job ticket of said press ready file upon completion of each task in the workflow via said closed-loop communication link.

18. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 17, further comprising performing automated job closing based upon information in said updated job ticket upon completion of production of said print job.

19. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 11, further comprising allowing a user at the designer location to select the print service provider location from among a plurality of print service provider locations and corresponding information on production capabilities.

20-21. (Canceled)